

Hallelujah, I'm A Bum!

First printed by the Spokane, WA Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in 1909. It is probably the most popular "bum" song ever written. Tune: "Revive Us Again."

A
O, why don't you work like other folks do?
A E
How the hell can I work when there's no work to do?

Chorus:

A D
Hallelujah, I'm a bum -- Hallelujah, bum again
A D E A
Hallelujah, give us a hand-out to revive us again

O, why don't you save all the money you earn?
If I didn't eat I'd have money to burn!

O, I like my boss he's a good friend of mine
That's why I'm starving out on the bread line

And I like my boss and my boss likes me
That is the reason why I'm so hungry

I went to a bar and asked for a drink
He gave me a glass and he showed me the sink

I went to a house and I knocked on the door
The lady said, "scram bum you been here before!"

Oh I went to that house and I asked for some bread
The lady said, "bum, bum the baker is dead!"

And I like Jim Hill he's a good friend of mine
That's why I'm boomin' down Jim Hill's mainline

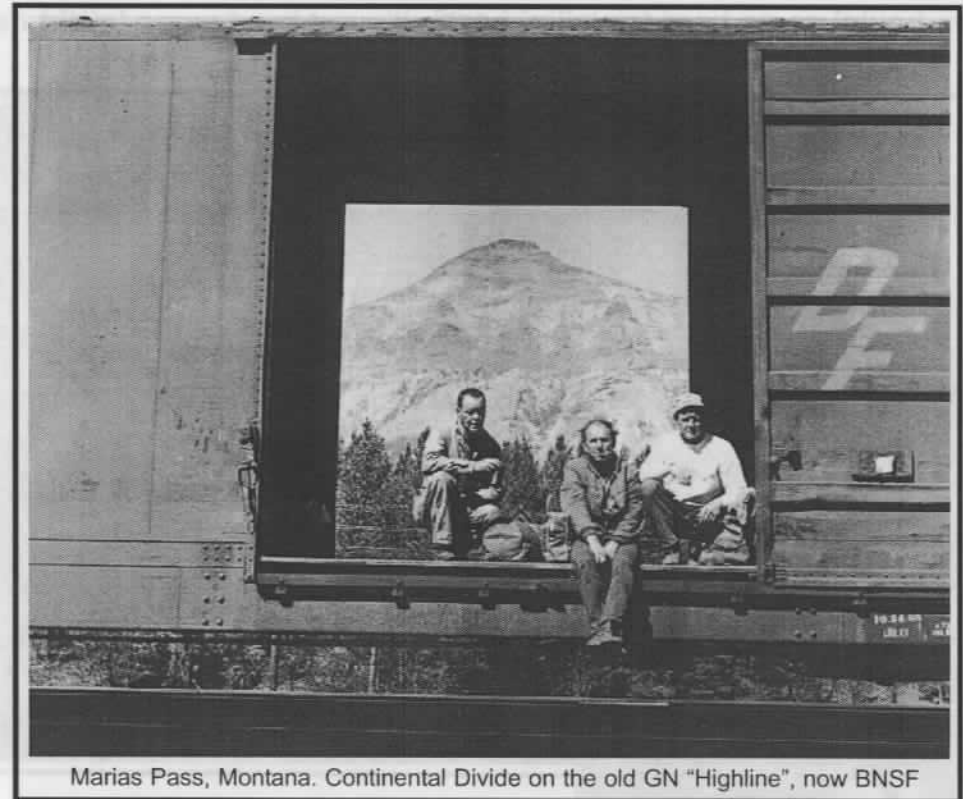
When springtime does come oh won't we have fun
We'll jack in our jobs and we'll go on the bum

Well the springtime has come, and I'm just out of jail
Without any money without any bail

When summer does come in the jungles we'll camp
It's to hell with the boss we'll be off on a tramp

Oh, why don't you work, like other folks do?
How the hell can I work when the skies are so blue?

-- Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock



Marias Pass, Montana. Continental Divide on the old GN "Highline", now BNSF